

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claim 9 is rejected. The Examiner objects to claims 1-8 and 10-15.

SPECIFICATION:

The Examiner objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure, asserting that “metal frames” should be “metal plates” to be consistent with the “metal plates” referred to in lines 2-3. Accordingly, Applicant hereby amends the Abstract in order to overcome this objection.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 1-3 and 11-14 are objected to because the Examiner again asserts that “metal frames” should be “metal plates,” and “said lid” in claim 11 (last line) should be “said flat plate.” Accordingly, Applicant hereby amends these claims in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be allowed in the next Patent Office paper.

35 U.S.C. §103:

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torii (U.S. Patent 4,889,233) in view of Kaneko et al. (U.S. Patent 4,841,558 [hereinafter “Kaneko”]).

The Examiner asserts that Torii discloses a casing 24, a light shielding plate 26 for holding a radiation image recording medium, and a lid 30 that is openably and closeably mounted on at least a portion of the casing. The Examiner acknowledges that Torii does not disclose that the casing has a flat plate comprising a three-layer structure including two carbon layers provided on opposite surfaces and an insulation layer interposed between the carbon layers. Thus, the Examiner turns to Kaneko and alleges that a flat plate is disclosed that has a multi-layer structure including two carbon layers (2 and 2') provided on opposite surfaces, and an insulating layer 1 that is interposed between the carbon layers. The Examiner also asserts that the insulating layer has an insulating strength of at least 5 kV; however, Applicant respectfully points out that Kaneko does not explicitly define this particular insulating strength.

The Examiner then concludes that it would have been obvious to modify Torii to have a flat plate with the layered structure of Kaneko. Applicant hereby amends claim 9 to describe the flat plate as being only a three-layered structure. One would not have been taught or suggested this configuration in light of Kaneko’s five-layered structure, and actually would have been taught away from this aspect. Such features of the present invention provide a cassette that is economical and is not unduly complex, as noted in a non-limiting illustrative embodiment described on page 13, lines 8-18 of the present specification.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any over-payment to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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